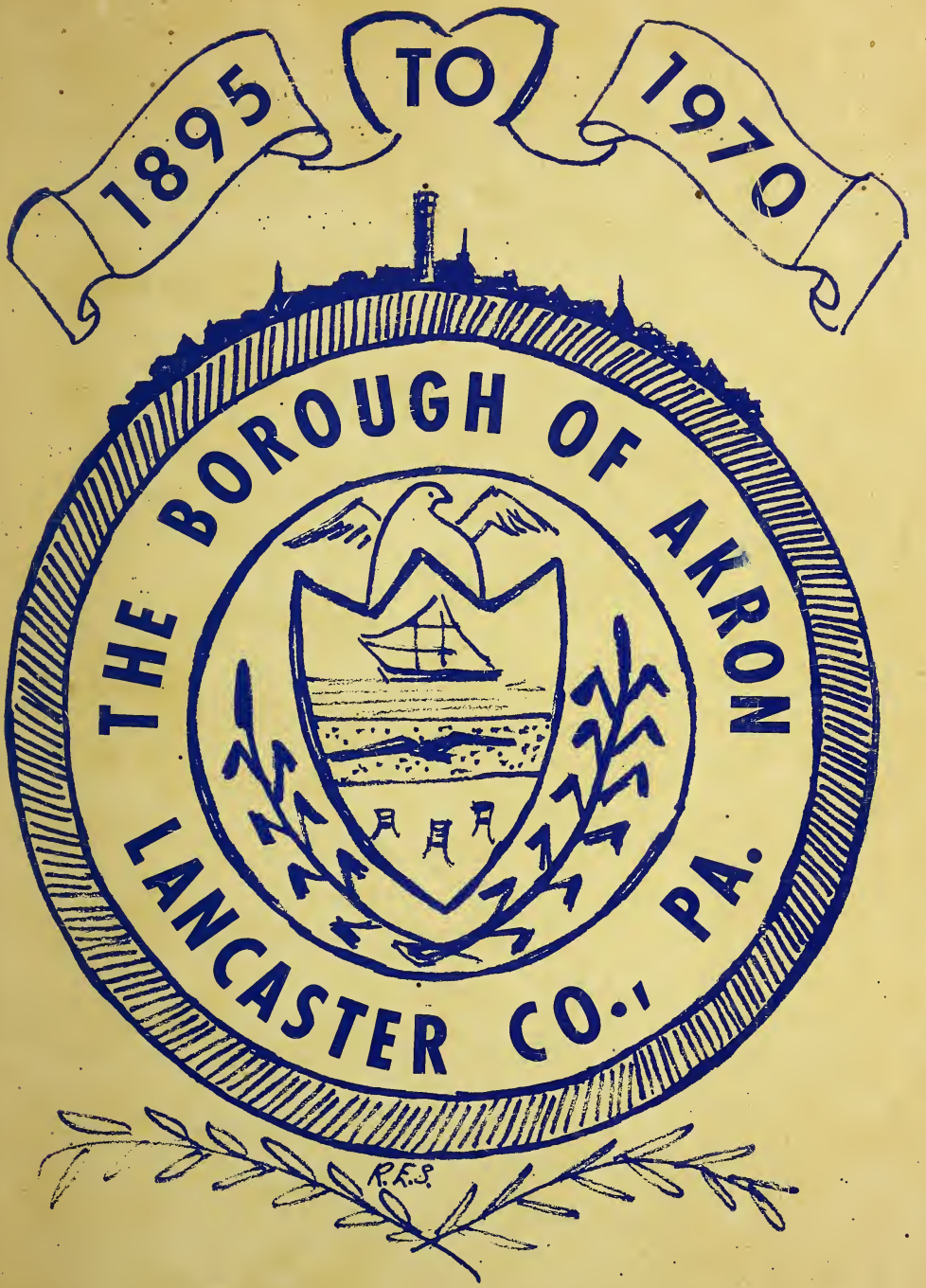


75th Anniversary

My Native Home

Akron, the home that's so dear to me,
With Nature's beauty as far as the eye can see,
With its wondrous hills and valleys old,
Lies silent 'neath the winter's cold.

As the Akron school bell calls,
We hasten to our studies within the town's fine school house walls;
We pass by the shoe factory on our way,
Where the shoes are made, to give the laborers their pay.

At the corner stands the old hotel, Akron,
As good a place for a stranger as any can be found;
While the bright gas light throws its light around,
And gives light to the late traveller homeward bound.

Soon we hear the many church bells ring,
A reminder that we must go, the Saviour's praises to sing;
And when the fire alarm taps for help to work,
We, like brave sons of Akron, must not our duties shirk.

I. A. K.

The above poem was written by Irene A. Kreiter, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Kreiter, who lived at 30 S. 9th Street. The poem was printed in "The Eahta", a booklet published by the Senior Class of the Akron High School in 1904.

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This Booklet is Respectfully Dedicated to

Loyd H. Roland



JANUARY 11, 1896 — MARCH 30, 1970

Educator — Borough Councilman and Secretary

Church Layman — Lions Club Organizer

Distinguished Citizen Extraordinary

A Message From The Mayor

This Seventy-Fifth Anniversary book takes us back to the good old days of our community. Looking back is enjoyable for the young and old alike.

We should also look ahead, as Akron has a future even more intriguing than its past. We face community problems that are larger, more complex and more expensive than ever before.

Many of our problems have been inherited from the past. Many are dictated by the realities of progress and the necessity of survival.

Akron is still young and the past seventy-five years are but a prelude to the years ahead in which our borough will continue to develop as a sound location for industry and business and a nice community in which to live and play.

Together, let us make Akron a more attractive, more prosperous community for our children and their children.

In reading this book, I hope you will join me in extending thanks and appreciation to the members of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Committee, and to the organizations and individuals who have helped make our seventy-fifth year a great year.

GUY B. ZELL,

Mayor.

Present Government

MAYOR ..... GUY B. ZELL

COUNCIL—
Wilmer E. Hall, *President*
Milo H. Zimmerman, *Vice Pres.*
Elroy C. Stauffer
Melvin S. Mitchell
Richard R. Singer
David A. May
Paul L. Wechter

W. Richard Goshert, *Secretary*

Robert G. Ober, *Treasurer*

K. L. Shirk, Jr., *Solicitor*

Raymond E. Stauffer, *Chief of Police and Permit Officer*

Harold A. Yost, *Assistant Chief and Permit Officer*

J. Howard Wolf, *Public Works Superintendent*

Mark J. Garman, *Civil Defense Director*

Planning Commission—
William J. Hyman, *Chm.*
Wayne A. Reber, Jr., *Vice Chm.*
Richard E. Sourweine
Carl R. Sammet
Lloyd R. Hackman

Zoning Hearing Board—
Nevin K. Brugger
Rev. David J. Kovach
Harry W. Isenberg

Rev. David J. Kovach, *Borough Chaplain*

AKRON BOROUGH AUTHORITY

E. Austin Hess, *Chairman*
Raymond C. Terry, *Vice Chairman*
George A. Taylor, *Secretary*
Richard L. Ebersole, *Treasurer*

Population Growth

1884	325	1930	747
1890	606	1940	877
1900	653	1950	1028
1910	719	1960	2167
1920	723	1970	3133

From 1950 - 1960 Akron experienced a population increase of 110.8%. This growth is partly attributed to annexation and the building developments. Akron has grown and will continue to grow because it is a pleasant attractive community, conveniently located to industrial and commercial centers.

AREA GROWTH

An 1895 Akron map showed an area of approximately 200 acres. This remained the same until 1950, when it was increased to 434.08 acres. In 1970 Akron Borough covers approximately 850 acres.

Our Burgesses and Mayors

PETER MILLER ..... (Our First Burgess) 1895

C. W. ZWALLY

A. F. KILLIAN

S. R. RUTH

W. W. WINEHOLD

SAM WEITKAMP

A. J. HINSEY

WAYNE ZELL

GEORGE KEMPER

GEORGE WECHTER

L. M. WIEST

CALVIN STEINER

A. W. GEHMAN

CYRUS MOHLER

ROBERT J. BIEBER

SIMON B. HESS

ARTHUR WOLF

FRED GRANT

GUY B. ZELL

75th Anniversary Committee

President ..... Wilmer E. Hall
Vice President ..... Guy B. Zell
Secretary ..... Mrs. W. Richard Goshert
Treasurer ..... Richard Singer
Assistant Treasurer ..... Raymond C. Terry
Directors ..... Larry L. Loose
T. Glenn Horst
David A. May

BOOK

General Chairman—
Wilmer E. Hall

Advertising—
Melvin S. Mitchell
Melvin Lapp
Tyler W. Trupe

Coordinator—
Harvey L. Ensinger, Jr.

HISTORY

Co-Chairmen—
Alma C. Daniels
Mrs. W. Richard Goshert
W. Richard Goshert
Robert Bieber
Arthur Romig
Mrs. Robert Herr
Mrs. Loyd Roland

OPEN HOUSE
Mrs. W. Richard Goshert
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pfautz
Mr. and Mrs. S. Chas. Eshelman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Herr
Mrs. Ralph Moyer

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS
Larry L. Loose

COMMUNITY DAY

General Chairman—
Guy B. Zell

PUBLICITY
T. Glenn Horst

PHOTOGRAPHY
R. Clinton Buch

ENTERTAINMENT
David A. May

LEGAL
K. L. Shirk, Jr.

ART
Raymond E. Stauffer
Timothy Rickenbach
Milton B. Diehm
James Stark
Larry L. Loose
Nelson Reinard

A WORD OF THANKS
to all those who have submitted pictures, histories and facts
on Civic Organizations, Churches, etc., etc.

Akron

How did the town get its name? To begin with, the word akron comes from the Greek word *akros,* meaning high place, which fits the location.

Naturally it is assumed that the borough was named after a city in Ohio and this is probably true. From historical records it appears that both areas were named within a short period of time and by the same people or their relatives. It is probable that some of these people may have lived in both areas.

From the World Book Encyclopedia, we find that in the early 1800's a number of Irishmen and Pennsylvania Germans went to the region of what is now Akron, Ohio to help build the Ohio and Erie Canal. It is very likely that these Pennsylvania Germans came from this area because historical records indicate that this area definitely was settled before the Ohio regions and that this area was predominately German immigrants.

A history of Lancaster County shows that the settlements in this area had grown to a "scattered village" of several houses and that the residents got together around 1830 and named the village New Berlin. However, this same history book lists a place called "Akron Mills", which was originally built in 1762. This mill was located on what is now Meadow Valley Road and is now known as Rettew's Mill. It is not known when the name Akron Mills was applied to the Mill. This history lists the construction of the Columbia and Reading Railroad in 1863, and the area around Front Street in Akron was already known as Akron and so the stop on the railroad was known as Akron Station. With the railroad came improved mail service and a post office was established here and was known as Akron Post Office. By 1880 apparently the area around the station was known as Akron and the area on the hill was known as New Berlin, but from the populations and sizes of the areas listed in the history book these two communities must have been the one and the same village but with two names.

Akron, Ohio was laid out as a village in 1825, and was incorporated in 1836. Akron, Pa. was incorporated in 1895, although the name was here much earlier. The name of New Berlin faded during the years of 1865 to 1895. Akron, Ohio is built on a hill 900 feet above sea level and probably was named first because there were apparently no Greek settlers in Akron, Pa. Most probably the name was brought back from Ohio by some one who went to work on the canal there and then returned and found the village of New Berlin comparable.

By drawing conclusions from these few facts, Akron, Ohio gave its name to Akron, Pa., but people from the Akron, Pa. area helped to give Akron, Ohio its start.

History

The history of Akron is as nearly accurate as possible. It was compiled from a Lancaster County History, Bridgens Atlas, and from the residents in our town.

One of the earliest buildings in our area was a log cabin built in 1724 — eight years before George Washington was born, and was located at the foot of North Eleventh Street on the land which is now the Borough farm. The cabin was built by Philadelphia fur traders who met Indians each spring as they came to drink the medicinal waters and traded with them for their furs. The building had wooden shutters on the north and east sides. They had holes five inches in diameter which are thought to have been lookouts for unfriendly Indians which were living in the locality at that time. Many Indian arrowheads were found in the fields surrounding the cabin but only one tomahawk was found.



First Building 1724 — Log House and Barn

The farmhouse and barn were built at a later date and were owned by Clayton Wenger, Sr. The farm was then known as the Bond Spring Farm. He owned and operated a bottle water business which was famous for its spring water. This is the source of the Borough water today.

His son, Clayton Wenger, Jr., who lives at 925 Main Street in Akron, sold the farm to the Borough in 1951. The log cabin was burned by fire in the early 1940's. The barn was torn down after it was purchased by the Borough and only the farmhouse remains.

Early records do not state from whom the original land grants were made in the Borough or what year, although records are recorded in Harrisburg, dated December 7, 1739, to Henry Miller; November 30, 1748, to Mathias Beckley; and June 13, 1749, to William Sharer. These grants were from Thomas, John and Richard Penn, sons of William Penn, and the land was sold to the above owners for 19 cents an acre. Vincens and Anna Mayer owned 68 acres, 71 perches on Gravel Hill, and it is believed that this was part of the above grant. They built a farmhouse on part of the land. The stone on the house is dated 1768.



Mayer Home Built in 1768 — Now Jameson Residence — Sketch from 1899 Photo

During the early 1900's the farm was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Ruppin. Orchards covered part of the land and at one time there were 3,000 peach trees and other fruit orchards on the land. A water tower on the hill above the house served the house with water. An addition was built to the farmhouse by Levi Miller. The Ruppins sold the farmland to the Zimmerman family keeping only nine acres and the farmhouse. Robert Ruppin, a son, lives in Akron at 1011 Hillcrest Road. Dr. and Mrs. E. Carleton Jameson and their sons, Don and Carl, are the present owners of the farmhouse. This farm is situated on Diamond Street and Tobacco Road.

Levi Miller, father of Stella Miller who lives at 31 South Ninth Street, built many of the early churches and buildings. Included are the Zion Luth-

eran Church, the old Akron School on North Seventh Street, the original Mt. Zion Evangelical Church on North Eleventh Street, other buildings around the town square and many homes. He moved the home located at 31 South Ninth Street, from Main Street, where the Willis Detweiler building now stands, about ninety years ago. He remodeled the home, changing it from a 1½-story bungalow to a 2½-story dwelling. At that time the west side of South Ninth Street was a wooded area with the only home being 32 South Ninth Street and 112 - 114 South Ninth Street. Another early farmhouse is at 112 South Tenth Street, which was built before 1855. Another landmark is the building now known as the Albert Mellinger & Son Lumber and Feed Mill. The building was built in 1888 with Elias Wolf operating the feed mill. A cigar factory, owned by S. Wolf, operated on the second floor. Several years later the Miller Hess & Company Shoe Factory manufactured its first shoes on the second floor and the basement until they built the present factory at Seventh and Main. Albert Mellinger purchased the feed mill in 1916 and it has been owned and operated by the same family since that time.



One of First Farm Buildings — Oak and 9th Streets

The following is quoted from a book called the Pennsylvania Citizen, owned by Rev. A. W. Lindenmuth of Akron. It relates to the Pennsylvania government as outlined by William Penn.

The Borough: Whenever a village has a population so large that it needs separate schools, lighted streets, improved sidewalks, etc., it may set up a government of its own, for the township has no power to grant these things to a village, nor would it be inclined to grant them if it could. A town that has a government of its own is a borough. To organize itself into a borough, a village must petition the court through a majority of

its voters, and give notice thereof in one newspaper of the county for at least thirty days. If the judge approves the petition, the borough is incorporated.

"Bridgens Atlas" of 1864 shows Akron as a village called New Berlin, a part of Ephrata Township. The Historical Atlas of 1875 shows that Akron had grown to approximately 30 homes. In 1884 Akron was described as a small hamlet with a population of 325 persons, served by a post office and store.



This enlargement of New Berlin or Akron Area was taken from a map of Ephrata Township printed in 1864. You can count the number of houses that year and the names of people who owned them. The map was paid for and distributed by businessmen of the township for advertisement. The Akron Area merchants and doctor are listed below.

Kemper, Jacob . . . . Justice of the Peace, Printer, Surveyor and Conveyancer, New Berlin.

Killian, A. G. . . . . Merchant and Proprietor of the Washington Hotel, New Berlin. Also Agent for Dr. Stever's Bitters.

Wolf & Son . . . . Forwarding Merchants, and Dealers in Grain, Salt, Coal and Lumber, and Postmaster at Akron.

Wenger, Gershom . . . . Physician and Surgeon, New Berlin.

Using these thoughts the town men in November, 1894 petitioned the court, and the Grand Jury certified the incorporation of Akron as a borough in 1895. The charter of Akron Borough bears the following in part: *"That the said town of Akron be and the same is hereby incorporated into a borough in conformity with the prayer of the petitioners, that the corporate style and title thereof shall be "The Borough of Akron"."* At the time of incorporation the area of Akron was approximately 200 acres and the population was 606 persons.

The first Borough Council met in the office of P. B. Miller, 32 South Ninth Street. The officers were as follows:

Burgess ..... P. B. Miller
Pres. Protem ..... John Schatz
Sec. Protem ..... Jacob Zwally
Clerk ..... Wayne Zell
Treasurer ..... P. W. Weidman
Councilmen ..... Mr. Zahm, W. P. Albright, Tobias Daniel
High Constable ..... Mr. Stauffer

Council elected W. P. Albright as their first president.

They voted to meet at the George Weidler home where they rented two rooms, light and heat for $20.00 a year. They bought a table for $6.00, one dozen chairs for $9.00. These items were purchased from the P. B. Weidman store located at the rear of 115 South Ninth Street.

The first item of business was to name the Borough streets and adopt By-Laws.

In reading early minutes we find that some of the following problems arose:

A.—They were plagued with mud holes in the streets and walks. They purchased wooden planks from Elias Wolf's Lumber Yard for walks and put stones in the gutters.

B.—Board of Health was appointed:

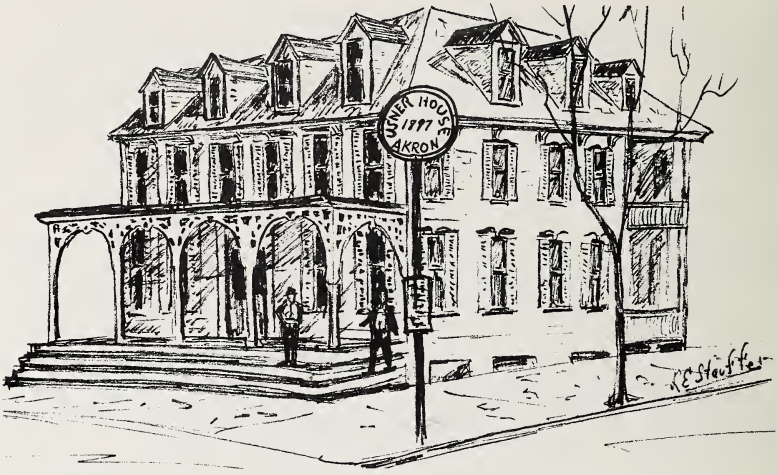
Dr. Jacob Albright — C. B. Zwally
Dr. J. S. Kreiter — O. R. Brown
P. W. Weidman

C.—They reported having found neglected horses in the livery stables at the rear of Romig's Hotel.

During this period the chief industry was the manufacturing of hand made cigars, and at one time over fifty cigar "factories" were located in Akron. Many of these factories were located in back rooms or upstairs rooms of houses. However, several were quite large and employed many people.

The Miller Hess Shoe Factory was and is the largest industry in the Borough. It manufactures shoes and today employs many borough residents.

The Wagner Hotel, formerly the Usner House, is one of the landmarks still standing on the square. In front of the hotel on South Ninth Street was a sign marked "LAW" with a billboard where all the borough ordinances were posted.



Usner House — Now Fasnacht Apartments — 9th and Main Streets

Several other landmarks were Romig's Hotel which stood on the area at the square which is now the parking lot for the Akron Shop Rite Market.



Romig's Hotel

The Village Band Hall, a two-story building, was the center of the community social life. Here the community band practiced, boys and girls played basketball and the community held fairs and carnivals. Early churches in Akron held Sunday worship services there until their churches were built. This was located on the Akron Restaurant parking lot. In the early 1900's North and South Ninth Street was rebuilt with large stones laid by hand.



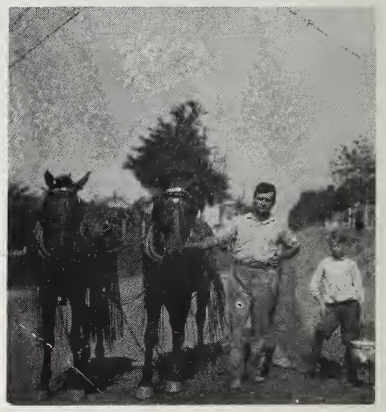
South 9th Street Being Built



First Fire Hall — Standpipe, Jail, and Present Auditorium









Laying Borough Water Mains — 1911

A Water Department was created in 1911, and an Electric Light Company in 1912. The power plant was located north of Fulton Street near the Henry Showalter property. Akron remained a quiet town with not much noticeable change in growth.

In 1939 the building of the new Route 222, North and South Seventh Street, was built. This alleviated the traffic from the old Route 222, which was North and South Ninth Street.

During World Wars I and II the sons, fathers and husbands left their homes and families and fought for the country they loved and honored. A "Welcome Home" celebration was held on the square for the returning veterans of World War I.





World War I Celebration



World War I Celebration

World War II veterans had their names on an Honor Roll at the Akron National Bank building. Two gold stars were placed on this Honor Roll.

In the era following World War II a large annexation was added to Akron. This was the land on Main Street at the eastern end of the Borough, and land owned and developed by the late Henry W. Oberholtzer. His development was known as Akron Heights and was the area from South Ninth to South Eleventh Streets and south of Broad Street.

In the years between 1950 - 1960 the population of Akron doubled and was the fastest growing community in Lancaster County. In 1970 Akron observes its 75th year since incorporation, still basically a residential town with a variety of small industries. Expansion continues with new homes, apartments, and development of the new Borough Park. Although it is only 75 years since incorporation as a Borough, it is nearly 250 years since the first settlement in Akron, making it one of the oldest communities in Lancaster County.

About 1946 a fulltime Police Department was established. With the growing needs of the townspeople the Borough constructed a new water plant and reservoir in 1962.

In 1963 a sewerage feasibility report was made. In March, 1969 the sewerage system was started in the Borough and is now completed and usage of the system has begun. In 1968 a street lighting program was started to replace all the old type street lights with the new mercury vapor lamps.



In Memoriam





PVT. HAROLD "Butter" MYERS, U.S.M.C.

1924 – 1944

Died in Action in the Marshall Islands, February, 1944.

PFC. HAROLD R. DEYER, U.S. ARMY

1924 – 1944

Died from Wounds received on D-Day.

Akron's Two Citizens Who Gave Their Lives For Freedom

★ ☆ ★

AKRON CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF ALL ITS CITIZENS WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES IN OUR NATION'S WARS.

Akron's Churches



Mount Zion United Methodist Church

1875 Mount Zion congregation was organized as a church under the Evangelical Association. There are no historical records as to the nature of organization, although the founder of the Association was Jacob Albright of Lancaster County.

1876 A church was erected. This building was used for worship until our new church was available for service. The church became part of the Brownstown Circuit, a status which remained until 1924.

1898 Mount Zion Church was remodeled. The tower and vestibule were built, pulpit space constructed, and a new furnace was installed.

1914 New pews, pulpit furniture, and electric lights were installed.

1922 The name of the denomination was changed to the Evangelical Church.

1924 Annual Conference removed Mount Zion Church from the Brownstown Circuit and made her a single charge under mission status.

1926 The 50th Anniversary of the church was observed. At this time the inside of the church was refinished.

1934 A new Sunday School unit was built. This unit was adjacent to the south of the church, making possible its use for worship facilities. A new heating system was installed, and the floors recarpeted and revarnished. The outside of the church was also painted at this time.

1940 Akron and Terre Hill were made a circuit by Annual Conference.

1946 On November 16th a union of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren Church was held in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, forming the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

1947 Major repairs and refinishing were completed.

1956 Ground Breaking for the first unit of our present church plant was held April 15th. This building is the south end of the church wing, and was constructed for educational purposes.

1957 Dedication of the Educational Building was held on March 24th. Because of community growth and the dedicated enthusiasm within the church, Annual Conference listed Mount Zion "a new missionary opportunity." In this same year, for the first time in her history, Mount Zion was able to purchase her own parsonage. The property is located directly north of the church, on the east side of the street.

1958 A new Baldwin Electronic Organ was dedicated April 27th.

1960 The property west of the church, on the opposite side of Eleventh Street, was purchased. The house was sold, but the vacant lot retained for parking facilities.

1961 Ground Breaking for the new Mount Zion Church was held April 23rd. Construction was under way May 8th. The last worship in our old sanctuary was held November 19th. On November 26th the first worship in the basement of the new building was held.

1962 The congregation of Mount Zion Church held the first worship in their new sanctuary on February 11th. The cornerstone was laid in place May 6th at 10:00 A. M., with dedication being held in the afternoon on the same date.

1968 The congregation assumed partial support of a missionary family serving in the Philippines. In April of this year, at Dallas, Texas, the Evangelical United Brethren and the Methodist Churches consumated a union resulting in the formation of the United Methodist Church.

Mount Zion Church gave three of its sons to the Christian ministry. The late Raymond W. Albright, who, after serving several pastorates, taught in the Evangelical School of Theology, Reading, and the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Alton Albright, presently pastoring in the United Church of Christ, Leesport, Pennsylvania; and Carl Gockley, rector of Holy Apostle Episcopal Church, St. Claire, Pennsylvania.

PASTORS

1876-78	Harry Kempfer	1898-99	J. H. Willauer
1879	Frank Sechrist	1900	J. H. Willauer
1880	Frank Sechrist	1901-02	W. H. Kindt
	D. W. Bixler	1903-06	D. S. Manning
1881	Frank Sechrist	1907-11	N. L. Bechtel
	D. S. Reinhold	1912-16	W. C. Eby
1882	J. L. Werner	1917-18	J. L. Boyer
	I. F. Heisler	1919-21	E. M. Slichter
1883	A. Ziegenfus	1922-23	C. H. Horner
	A. B. Saylor	1924-26	L. C. Updegrove
1884	A. Ziegenfus	1926-30	W. E. Sinclair
	C. Rothermel	1931-33	G. T. Gegan
1885	A. Ziegenfus	1934-35	G. D. Hoag
	A. J. Brunner	1935-37	M. J. Steierwald
1886-88	J. Woodring	1937-38	E. Barth
1889-90	David Lentz	1938-39	G. Barth
	W. H. Hartzler	1939-40	A. Hamilton
1891	David Lentz	1940-42	M. J. Steierwald
	W. I. Frederick	1942-43	H. Mengel
1892	P. A. Gruver	1944-45	N. E. Dettra
	W. I. Frederick	1946-47	J. W. Schober
1893	J. K. Fehr	1948-57	O. D. E. Pottieger
	H. C. Lilly	1957-63	R. E. Stauffer
1894	H. C. Lilly	1963-66	R. C. Voigt
1895-97	C. N. Roth	1966-	D. L. Spencer
1898	W. H. Weidner		



Grace Evangelical Congregational Church

Grace Evangelical Congregational Church traces her history from about 1889 when meetings were held in the old East Akron School House (at the intersection of Main and Diamond Streets), under the ministerial leadership of the United Evangelical Church.

The first church building was erected on South Ninth Street in 1892.

In 1922 a merger of the United Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Association was consummated. Some of the churches of the United Evangelical Church did not enter the merger but reorganized as the Evangelical Congregational Church, to which Grace Church adhered.

In November, 1966 Grace Church dedicated the first unit (a combination educational/worship facility) of their re-located church on North Seventh Street, where they now worship.

The following ministers have served Grace Church:

W. H. Hartzler	1889 - 1892	H. F. Miller	1926 - 1929
G. W. Hangen	1892 - 1896	A. H. Groff	1929 - 1934
J. T. Guinther	1896 - 1899	W. K. Cassel	1934 - 1942
E. S. Buntz	1899 - 1903	G. Harting, *Asst.*	1939 - 1942
C. W. Heffner	1903 - 1907	J. R. Weaver	1942 - 1946
S. P. Erisman	1907 - 1911	J. J. Fasnacht	1946 - 1948
H. J. Kline	1911 - 1914	E. J. Groff	1948 - 1954
H. P. Hagner	1914 - 1919	J. S. Heim	1954 - 1963
S. A. Heisey	1919 - 1924	R. H. Wise	1963 - 1966
B. S. Hoppes	1924 - 1926	E. J. Vondran	1966 -

In 1908 two young men entered the Christian ministry from Grace Church:

John A. Smith entered the ministry of the E. C. Church, later serving as a Presiding Elder and the Bishop of the denomination. He is now retired from the active ministry and resides at 27 North Eleventh Street, Akron.

William Daniels entered the ministry of the United Brethren Church, serving in Ohio.



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

A desire for a Lutheran congregation in Akron was aroused through the personal efforts of Peter W. Weidman, a cigar box manufacturer in Akron, who was a member of the Lutheran Church in Lincoln; Jacob Zwally, a butcher in Akron, and Christian B. (W) Zwally, a cigar manufacturer in Akron, the last two being members of Jerusalem Lutheran Church, Rothsville.

During the summer of 1889 services were held in the schoolhouse on the site of the present church buildings. It is thought that a Mr. Samuel Zerfass of the Cloisters was teacher there at that time, while the Rev. H. E. Semmel, living in Lititz and serving Emmanuel, of Brickerville, Jerusalem, of Rothsville, and White Oak churches, preached for the Lutherans assembled in this schoolhouse.

In a deed, dated August 19, 1889, for the payment of $10.00 to the trustees of the Akron Cemetery Association of the Township of Ephrata, (formerly the New Berlin Cemetery Association) the representatives of the young congregation secured 40 perches of land and the school building, with the stipulation that the congregation was to improve or enlarge the present building or erect a new one; that they may rent the building to any other denomination; that funeral privileges must be open to all denominations, for preaching of funeral sermons and for the meetings of the Cemetery Board. This deed was signed by G. S. Kemper, George M. Young, and Anna McCloud. This deed is found in Court House Records, Recorder of Deeds office, Volume B.M. Page 549 and is dated November 8, 1889, and recorded March 4, 1891. In the fall of 1889 the old school house was torn down and ground broken for the new church building.

The new building of the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Akron was dedicated on Sunday, May 4th, 1890, with appropriate religious services. The building was a 40 x 50 ft. frame structure, and had a seating capacity of over 200. The pastor, the Rev. H. E. Semmel of Lititz, held services every other Lord's Day in the afternoon. On Sunday, May 18th the first officers of the new congregation were installed. They were: Jacob Zwally, Peter Weidman, Christian W. Zwally, George F. Weidler, Isaac W. Zwally, and David Hartman. On November 24th, 1890 the Council was divided into elders, trustees and deacons.

As no bell was placed in the steeple at the very beginning, permission was given by the Ephrata Township School Board to ring the bell at the school house adjoining until a bell was secured by the church. A new bell was soon placed in the steeple of the church and was used to call the members to worship and study in the Sunday School, which was started shortly after the building was dedicated.

It is noted that 27 members communed on the first anniversary of the new building in the spring of 1891. Holy Communions were administered twice yearly during these years.

It was during the ministry of Rev. Reed that it became a necessity to build a Christian Education building onto the church. It was built at a cost of $46,487.14. The architect was Mr. Charles Schueringer of Phila-

delphia, who was the consultant architect for the Department of Church Architecture of the United Lutheran Church in America. The project as then planned was to be undertaken in two parts, the educational building unit first and at a later date a redesigned sanctuary. While the building was under way, Sunday School and Church were held in the new Akron Elementary School.

In 1958, for the first time in our history, worship was held every Sunday.

The churches of the Brickerville Parish approved a separation of our congregation which became effective June 1, 1960. The Rev. William M. Brown accepted our call. With him came a change in our structure for now we became a part of the Akron - Lincoln Parish.

In October of 1963 the Councils of both Salem Lutheran and Zion Evangelical of Akron decided to dissolve their partnership. This was a major step for our congregation, for this was the first time in our history that we were a self-supporting church.

In April of 1964 the Rev. David Kovach became our present minister. The pastor and congregation are endeavoring to minister to a changing society and world. The women of the church are making children's clothing, quilts and comforts for overseas relief and also helping at the Luther Acres Home in Lititz. A coffee house, "the Never Mind" is for the youth of the church and "the Autumn Inn" is a weekday meeting place for the Senior Citizens of our area. Both have proved very successful. The Christian family is the approach of the church today to help strengthen and make our world a better and more peaceful place to live.

PASTORS

Rev. Henry E. Semmel	1889 - 1896
Rev. Ambrose W. Leibensperger	1896 - 1903
Rev. David A. Roth	1903 - 1910
Rev. J. W. Bittner	1910 - 1915
Rev. Frederick A. Weicksel	1915 - 1937
Rev. G. B. Ammon	1937 - 1942
Rev. Henry L. Reed	1943 - 1960
Rev. William M. Brown	1960 - 1963
Rev. David J. Kovach	1964 -



Church of the Brethren

FORMERLY KNOWN AS GERMAN BAPTIST

613 Main Street — Akron, Pa.

The church district for the town of Akron was divided into two sections.

Those members living east of Ninth Street had their nearest worship place at Steinmetz Meeting House, located by what is now known as Wolf's Cemetery.

This section known as Springville District had its Love Feast House at Mohler's Church, north of Ephrata. This meant that unless they had other facilities available, the members walked over a cinder path to Diamond Station to travel by trolley to Ephrata, then transfer to the Adamstown trolley to get to the Mohler Church for this service.

Those members living west of Ninth Street had to travel to West Conestoga to worship. The Love Feast House and nearest church was at Middle Creek.

These distances proved a problem for those who had no horse and wagon.

In 1897 the Rev. I. W. Taylor held a revival meeting on the second floor of the town hall located in the area of the Akron Restaurant parking lot.

This, along with earlier discussions, set forth a movement to have a church located in Akron, which was finally agreed upon and solicitations began for funds. $1,567.17 was collected for this purpose.

In the fall of the following year, 1898, the new 40' x 50' frame building was dedicated. The cost was $1,131.37. The remainder was used for the cost of the land, surveying, pavement and walks, fences, railings (to tie horses), and trees, leaving a balance of $3.47.

Sister Sallie Shirk donated the parking lot.

However, the members of both districts had to find their way to the Love Feast and Communion Houses each Spring and Fall.

In 1913 a new district was formed, known as the Akron District, thus joining this portion of Springville and West Conestoga including Akron and surrounding areas. This included the Steinmetz Church which was later dismantled.

This change required the raising of the building 39 inches to make a basement under it for Love Feast purposes.

A Ladies' Aid was formed and for many years meals were served by them for funerals, which was traditional during that time. This service was available to all people.

Sunday School was organized in 1906.

In 1936 the building was enlarged to include a number of Sunday School rooms.

The following served in the ministry:

In 1895 David P. Snader (uncle of David H. Snader) was elected to the ministry while serving in West Conestoga District. He became Elder-in-charge of the Akron District when Elder I. W. Taylor resigned in 1915. He operated a shoe store on South Ninth Street.

Following the death of Elder David P. Snader in 1920, Rev. Samuel N. Wolf who had been elected to the ministry in 1913, was advanced to Eldership and served in this capacity until his resignation in 1938.

He also served as Trustee and Superintendent of the Orphanage at Neffsville, and was one of the founders of Miller and Hess Shoe Co., as well as the Lassie Laddie now known as Highland Shoe Co.

Following the resignation of Elder S. N. Wolf in 1938 the Rev. David H. Snader who had been elected minister in 1920, was chosen as presiding Elder and served until his death in 1948. He was a great Evangelist.

Rev. George B. Wolf who was also elected to the ministry in 1920, filled Elder Snader's vacancy until his death in 1952. He was Treasurer of the Children's Aid Society, Neffsville, for many years.

Rev. Harry S. Dohner, who entered the ministry in 1938, followed as Elder-in-charge after the death of George B. Wolf. The title of Eldership was later changed to that of Moderator by the Church Conference. Rev. Dohner served under this title until his resignation in 1968 when it was filled by a lay Moderator.

Rev. Amos Martin transferred to Akron from Mountville in 1944 and served until ill health interfered.

Rev. Warren Kissinger was elected to the ministry in 1946. He served here for a period of time. He was graduated from Elizabethtown College and Yale Divinity School and served as pastor in various churches.

The Rev. Elwood Shelly was elected to the ministry in 1949 and has faithfully served the church until the present time.



The Akron United Zion Church

The Akron United Zion Church started as a branch of the Rothsville congregation. It was organized with the building of the church on South Ninth Street (on the site now occupied by the Borough Building), in 1901. The builders were Samuel Hamlin and Son, with much of the labor and material being donated.

In 1936 the building was moved a few doors further south to its present location, with the rear annex added to it. The front annex was added to the building in 1965.

In 1959 an organ was donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Reitz who live in Akron at 530 Main Street. In 1970 a piano was donated in memory of PFC. Ray Good.

Pastors who served the congregation are:

James Heitler	1901 - 1918
Samuel Fasnacht	1918 - 1920
David Hornberger	1920 - 1924
Wesley P. Martin	1924 - 1970
Kenneth Espenshade	1970 -

Assistant Pastors—

Paul Brandt, 1951 - 1961 — Now pastor of Hahnstown Church.

Warren Slaymaker, 1964 - 1969.

Licensed Pastor—

J. Homer Martin

J. Paul Martin, a former member, is now serving as pastor of the Palmyra Church.

Richard Martin — Volunteer Service at Wanezi Mission, Bulawayo, Africa.



Akron Mennonite Church

The Akron Mennonite Church was started by a group of approximately 14 families living in the Akron - Ephrata area who had been attending the Monterey Mennonite Church, located 3 miles south of Leola. The Akron church was an outgrowth of the Monterey congregation, partly due to the crowded facilities but also the desire for these families to attend a church located in the community in which they live.

The first services were held on October 4, 1959 in the Brownstown Fire Hall where they met for almost four years until June, 1963.

A 13½-acre tract of land situated along Diamond Street was purchased from Jacob Oberholtzer in October, 1960.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held in September, 1962, with the first stage of the building program completed in June, 1963.

The charter membership consisted of 46 members in 1959 with a growth to a present 180 members in eleven years.

Rev. Glen Esh served as pastor from October, 1959 to August, 1961, along with his regular pastoral duties at the Monterey congregation.

Rev. Kermit Derstine served as pastor from August, 1961 until August, 1968 when he accepted a pastoral call in Denver, Colorado.

In the interim from September, 1968 until July, 1969, various individuals and guest speakers functioned in the absence of a pastor.

Rev. Donald Blosser accepted the call to serve as pastor, starting in July, 1969, and is currently serving in this capacity.

The Akron congregation has a number of individuals envolved in the program of the Mennonite Central Committee and because of this has members traveling and serving in various parts of the world. The congregation does not have any missionaries or personnel sent out and supported solely by the congregation.



The Bible Baptist Church

The Bible Baptist Church was organized December, 1965 and began holding their services in the Ephrata Pioneer Fire Hall on Locust Street, Ephrata, Pa.

The Rev. Robert Acker and Rev. Donald Pierce were serving the congregation until they were chartered on April 27, 1966. The Rev. Robert Acker then served as pastor. The church at 19 South Ninth Street, Akron, was purchased from the Assembly of God congregation and held their first service in the new sanctuary in July, 1966. Larger quarters were secured when they purchased the former Grace Evangelical Church at 45 South Ninth Street from the Grace congregation on May 19, 1968. The Rev. Malcolm Bicker was pastor at that time. On November 15, 1969 the Rev. Leonard Uhrich from Lancaster, Ohio was called, and he is serving the congregation at the present time.

History of Akron Schools

The original Akron school was held in a two-story building west of the Lutheran Church on an adjacent lot. Mr. Wilson Zwally taught the first four grades, and Mr. A. Kline, often called "Pappy", taught grades five through eight.



West Akron School

The building on North Seventh Street was built in 1897, and the pupils were transferred there in the fall of that year. An addition was added to this building at a later date. Mr. I. F. Seiverling was the first principal of our High School. He alone taught all the high school subjects. The pupils were in school from 8:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

The first class of five members graduated from our High School in 1905. The first assistant principal, Miss Grace Brecht, was elected in 1912. She is a guest at Maple Farm Home at the present time. Commencements between 1903 and 1913 were held in Grace U. E. Church on South Ninth Street. The Class of 1913 was the first to hold a Commencement program in the Akron Borough Hall on South Tenth Street.

In the spring of 1924 the East Akron School was closed and the pupils from that school entered our Borough School in the fall of that same year.



East Akron School

1926 was the year that the eighth grade held Commencement exercises in the Borough Hall. This was the only class that observed this important event. Mr. I. F. Seiverling was the speaker.

Our Akron High School was closed in 1943, at which time the Akron pupils were transferred to the Ephrata High School. Mr. Loyd Roland, who was principal at that time, was elected head of the Mathematics department of the Ephrata High School.

In the year 1953-1954 a new elementary school building was erected on South Eleventh Street. In a short time this building proved to be inadequate; consequently the children in the two upper grades had to be taught in the old building which had been condemned.

In 1959 four rooms were added to the elementary building and in 1963 two more rooms were added. Two new improvements were made to the elementary school, namely, a library and a conference room in 1967.

In 1961 final steps were taken to send the pupils in the seventh and eighth grades to the Ephrata School.



Akron Public School Building

Akron is now a part of the Ephrata Area School district. This means that Akron pupils in grades one through six attend the elementary school on South Eleventh Street. Pupils in grades seven through twelve are transported to Ephrata. In September of this year the Junior High School pupils will be entering the new Junior High building on North Academy Drive.

Thus one has seen great changes and improvements in our schools during the past seventy-five years.

The members of the Akron School Authority are: Paul Pfautz, Milo Zimmerman, Robert Hamilton, III, Paul Wechter and Carl Weidman.

The Ephrata Area School Board consists of: Clarence Stauffer, Ronald Frisbie, Dr. Robert Jones, William Sherman, Jimmie Reedy, Harold Miley, Larry Loose, Morse Brossman and Robert Bensing.

The Ephrata Area School District Administrative personnel is as follows: C. Daniel Biemesderfer, *Superintendent*; Kenneth Hoover, *High School Principal*; George Breslin, *Assistant High School Principal*; Lou Snook, *Junior High School Principal*; Ralph J. Homsher, *Director of Elementary Education*; Kenneth Samara, *Curriculum Coordinator*; Mrs. Arlene Dittrick, *Secretary to Director of Elementary Education*; Mrs. Hazel C. Steininger, *Secretary to High School Principal*; Mrs. Carmen Reddig, *Secretary in District Office*. The members of this administrative staff are all residents of Akron.

Akron Woman's Civic Club

The Akron Woman's Civic Club, an affiliate of the Lancaster County Federation, the Pennsylvania Federation, and the General Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in the summer of 1962 and convened for its first meeting September 24 in the Akron Borough Hall. There were one hundred and seven charter members present. The club officers were:

Mrs. C. Daniel Biemesderfer, *President*
Mrs. Sydney D. Baron, *First Vice President*
Mrs. Reynolds C. Bomberger, *Second Vice President*
Mrs. William W. Royer, *Recording Secretary*
Mrs. Nevin R. Snader, *Corresponding Secretary*
Mrs. Robert G. Ober, *Treasurer*
Mrs. John L. Horst, *Historian*

Succeeding presidents have been Mrs. William G. Ridgway, Mrs. Sydney D. Baron, Mrs. Albert W. Miller, Mrs. Ronald E. Frisbie, Mrs. Joseph B. Beatty, III, Mrs. Anthony J. Kudela, and Mrs. Barry L. Seidel.

Akron Woman's Civic Club was founded to promote friendship, understanding, and good will among the women of Akron, and to afford them opportunity to work together for the betterment of the community, through the discovery and concerted use of their talents, skills, resources and efforts.

The club chose green and white as its colors, the chrysanthemum as its flower, and a seal depicting a covered bridge designed by Milton B. Diehm, as its emblem.

Club meetings are held in Akron Borough Hall the fourth Monday each month and feature programs of cultural, current, and "homey" interests— music, book reviews, home decoration, drama, travel, etc. Highlighting each year's programming are Men's Night when husbands and friends are guests, and Creative Woman's Night when clever clubwomen display their arts and crafts — ceramics, painting, needlework, knitting, baking, and sewing. A fashion show is held and sewing contest winners are chosen.

The Akron Woman's Civic Club has been deeply involved in community life and activities from its beginning. It helped to refurbish the Borough Hall auditorium with the purchase and installation of stage curtains, cyclorama, and piano. It sponsors the Girl Scout program, and with the help of the Lions Club, renovated the Girl Scout room in Borough Hall. The Unicef "Trick or Treat" project is handled by the club. It mans the Snack Bar at the Ephrata Community Hospital one day each month and assists with the hospital's annual June Fete. It provides drivers for the Golden Years' Club. It presents a scholarship each year to an Ephrata Area Senior girl, initiated and conducts a story hour each week during the winter months for pre-school children at Ephrata Public Library, organized a golf league, and has conducted many valuable workshops for club members—crewel embroidery, speech, ceramics, knitting, hatmaking, and art. A vigorous ways and means program which has incorporated card parties, fashion shows, rummage sales, holiday bazaars, and food sales have made it possible for the club to contribute generously to many worthy community charities, organizations, and individuals.

Present club membership numbers one hundred and thirty-five, and officers for the year 1970 - 1971 are:

Mrs. Robert L. Jones, *President*
Mrs. Richard W. Cox, *First Vice President*
Mrs. Ralph Moyer, *Second Vice President*
Mrs. Charles Eshelman, *Recording Secretary*
Mrs. Clarence E. Hufford, *Corresponding Secretary*
Mrs. Nevin R. Snader, *Treasurer*
Mrs. Dwight V. Yoder, *Historian*

Akron Lions Club

The Akron Lions Club was chartered in December, 1938, with twenty-nine members on its roster. Edwin A. Hess served as the first president, and Robert P. Herr was secretary-treasurer.

Throughout the years the club has undertaken many activities to raise funds, the major one being the operation of a food stand at the Ephrata Farm Show since 1941. These funds have been spent on many community projects such as playground and recreational equipment, Christmas and Easter programs for the children of the community, various contributions to the blind, veteran, and community organizations.



First Easter Egg Hunt — 1939.

The Lions also sponsor the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, a midget and two midget-midget baseball teams. The club has available, free of charge, several wheel chairs, hospital beds and crutches for use by anyone in the community.

The Akron Lions Club has for thirty-two years tried to uphold the motto, "*We Serve*" in the community and will strive to do so in the future.

The club has a membership of fifty-five at present, four of which are charter members.

Present officers are: *President,* Howard Haws; *1st Vice President,* Ray Boltz; *2nd Vice President,* A. Jackson Yundt; *3rd Vice President,* Richard Sourweine; *Secretary,* Norman Eckert; *Treasurer,* Fred Weber. Warren Royer is the *Immediate Past President.*

Akron Volunteer Fire Company



The Akron Volunteer Fire Company was chartered in 1897. Among the first pieces of equipment were a 1909 hose cart and a 1911 double hook and ladder cart, both of which were hand drawn. These two pieces of equipment are on display at the Landis Valley Farm Museum near Lancaster.

The first motor driven piece of apparatus, purchased in 1924, was a Hale fire truck, which solely served the community until 1951. At this time a 1951 Mack was added to cover the growing community. Realizing the need for more modern fire-fighting equipment the Hale was retired and an American LaFrance was purchased in 1959.

The present location of the engine house is the Borough building at 29 South Tenth Street.

OFFICERS

President ..... J. Howard Wolf
1st Vice President .... Ken Gestewitz
2nd Vice President .... Robert Herr
Secretary ..... Ron Eisenhard
Assistant Secretary .... Earl Bowman
Treasurer ..... Kenneth Zell
Trustees ..... J. Howard Wolf
Robert Herr
Elmer Burkholder

Fire Chief ..... Ronald Reich
1st Asst. Chief ..... Robert Sheaffer
2nd Asst. Chief .... Ron Eisenhard
3rd Asst. Chief ..... Walter Reich
4th Asst. Chief .... J. Howard Wolf
Captain ..... Kenneth Zell
Captain ..... Terl Witmer
Captain ..... Carl Zimmerman

The Ladies' Auxiliary

The Ladies' Auxiliary to the Akron Fire Company was organized in December, 1940.

FIRST OFFICERS — 1940

President ..... Mrs. Harold Shirker
Vice President .. Mrs. Irene Hufford
Secretary ..... Mrs. Reed Garner
Treasurer ..... Mrs. H. E. Romig
Financial Sec. ..... Mrs. E. E. Trupe
Trustees ..... Mrs. John Heiser
Miss Lottie Frymyer
Mrs. Wayne Bender

Since its organization this group has contributed:
$9,000.00 to the Fire Company for equipment
$1,000.00 to the Fire Company in 1969 plus
$500.00 in January, 1970 for equipment.

A new kitchen was installed in the Borough Hall in 1969, which the Auxiliary helped to equip.

Prior to 1951 contributions were made to various charities.

Money Raising Projects:
Dinners
Cater Receptions
Rummage Sales
Merchandise Clubs
Easter Flower Sales
Food Stands at Public Sales

An annual Membership drive is conducted starting with September and continuing through October. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month with the exception of July and August when they are dispensed with.

PRESENT OFFICERS — 1970

President .... Mrs. William Ehrhart
Vice Pres. .... Mrs. Kenneth Bricker
Secretary .... Mrs. Charles Gehman
Asst. Sec. .... Mrs. Arthur Givler
Treasurer ..... Mrs. Robert Walmer
Asst. Treas. ..... Mrs. Ronald Reich
Trustees ..... Mrs. Elmer Sheehan
Yvonne Sensenig
Mrs. Wallace Roth

Transportation

Trains

Transportation has played an important role in our history. The records state that the first train, The Columbia and Reading Railroad, came to Akron in 1863. Originally Akron and several nearby towns were to be by-passed with the railroad passing through Lincoln. However, the Ephrata Mountain Springs Hotel was a popular resort and the manager was influential in having the railroad pass through Ephrata. The route was subsequently changed to include Akron. The early railroad station was a part of the present Albert Mellinger & Son Feed and Lumber Mill with a ticket booth, separate waiting rooms for the men and women, and with the warehouse serving as the freight office. The station across the tracks was built in the early 1900's. Railroad passenger service was discontinued in the 1940's and the railroad station was torn down in 1952. Today the train only passes through Akron in the morning and evening, stopping at Akron only to uncouple a car containing a local shipment.



Early Railroad Station Scene



Last Akron Station

Trolley Cars and Bus Service

An elderly dentist living in Millersville invested his retirement funds in a horse car line. This was the first portion of a network of a transportation system in the county that offered passenger service in the county.

In 1875 the Conestoga Traction Company opened its doors to Lancaster County as an outgrowth of the horse car line. Trolley service reached into the county like spokes of a wheel. Trolley service was extended to Diamond Station in 1900 and in 1924 the route was changed from Brownstown to Akron, with the trolley entering the Borough on South Tenth Street. An 81-year-old resident of Akron, Edgar K. Binkley, 1163 Main Street, helped to lay tracks from Lancaster to various towns in the county.

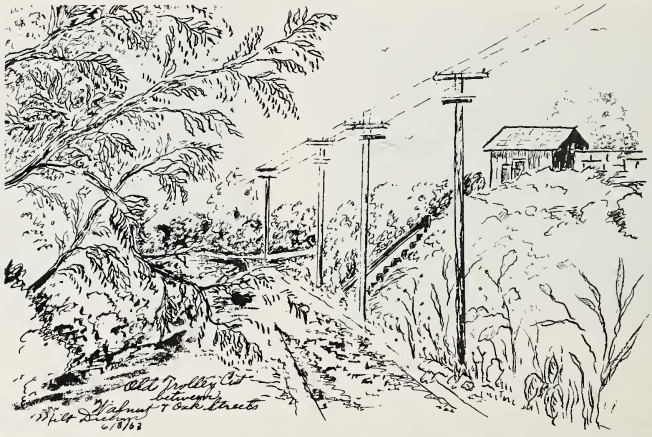
He started as a water boy in 1900 and later worked as night supervisor in the car barn and the busses until his retirement in 1953. He rode on the first trolley car to Akron in 1926, the last trolley car in 1947, and the first bus to Akron on February 9, 1947. Mr. Binkley relates that the rails and ties were laid by hand, and horse drawn wagongs carried the equipment. Most of the digging was done by hand and with hand drills. The round trip fare from Diamond Station to Lancaster was 40 cents.



Building trolley tracks — 1925.



North 11th Street trolley bridge.



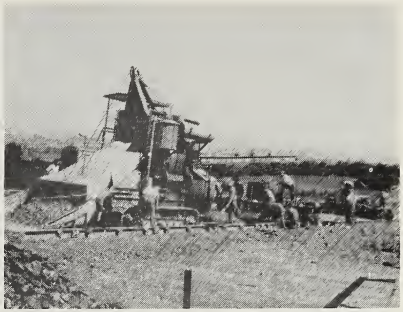


Center dwelling was torn down for location of trolley tracks.



First trolley car to arrive in Akron.



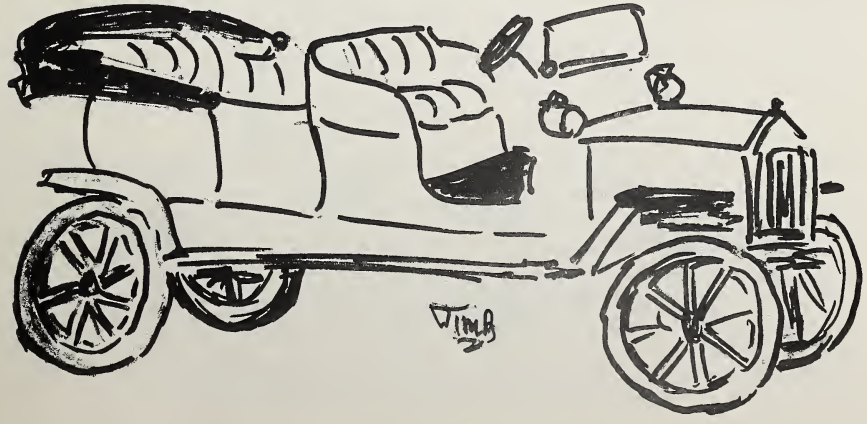


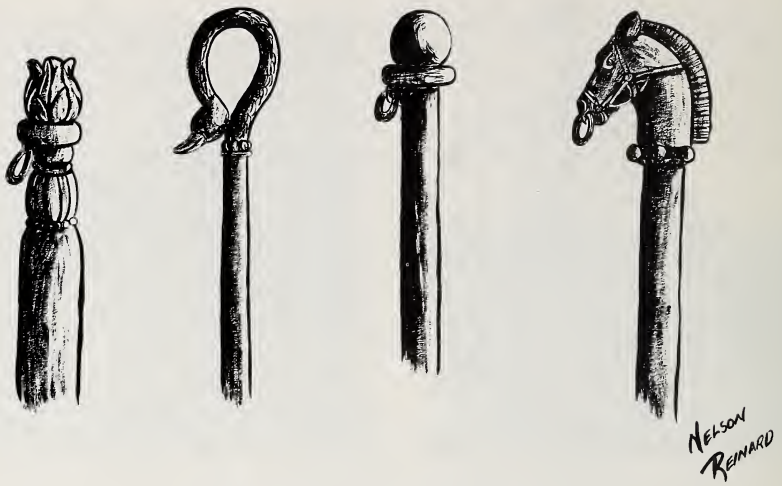
Building Route 222 — 1939

Vehicles

Transportation has changed. The early delivery of bread, milk, meat was made in a horse drawn wagon with a block of ice cut from Smith's ice dam to keep it fresh for the customer. Wagons from nearby farms delivered milk to the creamery located near the railroad tracks on Fulton Street. Main Street was dusty in the summer and snow covered and muddy in the winter. Farmers drove their cattle or sheep along Main Street, and youngsters scampered to the nearest house to find refuge behind the pail fences which almost every home had built around their property. Velocipedes, bicycles, horse and carriage or wagons were the only means of traveling.

Some of the men reminisce about the Model T Ford and Chevrolet and how they tested them by driving them up Smith's Hill which was the former Route 222, entering Akron on North Ninth Street.





Early Hitching Posts in Akron

Sports

Baseball

In the latter part of the 19th century a ball diamond was located on North Eleventh Street near the location of the United Methodist Church. Around the turn of the century Akron's ball diamond was located on the south side of Main Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Street. Akron had a fine team in that era, there being quite a rivalry between the Akron and Ephrata teams. Early in the twentieth century the ball diamond was located west of Zion Lutheran Church, along Main Street. When this land



Looking East Across the Akron Playground



Back Row—Left to Right—Steve Buch, Harry Badorf, Elmer Getz, Aaron Adams, Larry Daniels. Center Row—Chas. Daniels, Dan Dissinger. Front Row—Ira Landis, Ed Stauffer, Irvin Minnich, Amos Stauffer, Chas. Hicks.

was no longer available for baseball, the Akron Athletic Association purchased land from Mr. Samuel Wolf. This diamond was situated on the east side of South Ninth Street, where New Street is now located. During the year 1919 Mr. H. W. Oberholtzer desired this land for his farm which was located nearby. In return he deeded the land upon which the present ball diamond is located to the Athletic Association. When this diamond was first laid out home plate was at the north-west portion of the field, with the batter facing the south-east. One of the best remembered games played on the diamond was between Akron and Brownstown as part of the Homecoming celebration for the veterans returning from World War I. This game was never completed as the visitors walked off the field due to an incident at third base. Some years later home plate was moved to its present location at the north-east section of the field. Saturday was baseball day in Akron as the Athletic Association had a policy that no baseball should be played on the field on a Sunday. Akron had some good teams during the 20's, 30's and 40's. One team won the championship in the Northern End League. At one period Akron was represented in the highly competitive City and County League. At other periods they

played strong independent teams. As has happened in many communities, baseball played by adults has lost interest. During the last two decades, and continuing to the present time, Akron has had teams of youngsters in Midget and Midget-Midget Leagues. They have won their share of championships, played good baseball and have produced some fine players.



Back Row—Left to Right—Skip Weidman, Elmer Hackman, Lewis Smith, Leon Lykens, Elmer Shore, Chas. Wolf, Alvin Zwally, Chas. Daniels. Second Row—Wayne Zell, Elmer Landis, Scolars, Rhodes, Chas. Enck, Wm. Daniels, Dommel, Tom Clark. Seated—Larry Daniels, Loyd Roland, Paul Enck, E. I. Romig.

SOFTBALL

At various times Akron had local softball leagues, such as church leagues, a league consisting of different departments of Miller Hess & Co., etc. A few years ago Akron had a championship team in the strong Ephrata Recreation League.



Basketball

Akron Borough was one of the pioneer towns for the game of basketball in Lancaster County. The games were played in the Fire Co. Hall, which is now known as the Akron Borough Hall. Until the mid 1920's the playing area was enclosed by a cage which consisted of a cord net similar to a fish net. This net was raised to the ceiling when other events were held in the hall. The game of basketball in this early period was far different than the game we know today. At that time the two-hand dribble was allowed and there was a jump ball at center court after each goal. One man was allowed to shoot all the foul goals, and since there was a net enclosure, out-of-bound plays were not necessary. In one respect these earlier games were very much like Ice Hockey as fights were not uncommon.

Akron High School had many good basketball teams and developed some fine players. In 1918, the team coached by the principal, Prof. Isaac Seiverling, were champions of Lancaster County. In 1927, the team coached by Prof. Loyd Roland, was tied with Neffsville High School (now known as Manheim Township) for the lead of Class C League. When Akron wanted to make arrangements for a play-off game, Neffsville refused, stating they were not interested in a play-off. While Akron discontinued practice, Neffsville practiced in secret. About three weeks before the end of the school term, their principal called Mr. Roland and stated they wanted to have a play-off game. Mr. Roland being a good sportsman and a gentleman, agreed. This game was played at Franklin & Marshall College, Neffsville winning by a very close score.

In 1929 the team, coached by Prof. Roland, were champions of the North End League. This league consisted of the smaller high schools north of Route 30, in Lancaster County.



Class C Champions — 1928-29
C. Kemper, R. Brubaker, A. Romig, E. Mohn, J. Enck.

During its existence, Akron High School was a three-year high school. Those students who so desired, completed the fourth year at Ephrata High School, where some played on their athletic teams.

In the early 1940's, Akron High School was closed, after which the Borough students attended Ephrata High School, and in the early 1950's Akron became a part of the Ephrata Area School District. Many Akron boys were on the basketball teams and quite a few were outstanding players.

About 1917 the Akron Athletic Association started a town team. The earliest games were played in a shed which was converted into a hall. This hall was located on Main Street on the land which is now the Akron Restaurant parking lot.

Later this team, which was named "The Akron Big Five", moved into the fire hall for their games.

During the 1920's, 30's and early 40's this team played some real exciting basketball. They played teams from Lancaster City and County as well as teams from Berks and other counties.

Many fine local players played on these teams, sometimes assisted by well known players from other localities. Many a story is told about their games with their arch rival, Ephrata.

Track and Field

Akron High School took part in the annual track and field meet which was held at Millersville State College in the 1920's and early 1930's. Akron was in the Class C division and won their share of awards.

In later years, including the present time, Akron boys have been successful on the Ephrata Area High School track teams.

Football

While Akron never had an organized football team many of our boys not only played, but were outstanding players on the Ephrata High School teams and later the Ephrata Area School teams.

Tennis

In the past some private tennis courts were built in Akron. Later on there were courts at various locations on the athletic field. At the present time two courts which are lighted for playing at night, are located on the playground.

Croquet

In the 1920's a croquet court was located on a site 500 yards east

of South Ninth Street, which is now Walnut Street. Later a court was built at the south-eastern boundary of the athletic field.

In the 1940's croquet was played under the lights on the lawn of the Akron Hotel.

Roquet

Roquet was very popular during the 1950's, with the court located on the west side of South Seventh Street.

Music

The Akron Cornet Band

The first record of the musical achievements of Akron residents began in 1900 when the Akron Cornet Band was organized, with twenty-three men participating. A Mr. Mishler was the conductor and after long hours of practicing in the Community Band Hall they played for summer picnics and held concerts in Lititz Springs Park. At Christmas time they went caroling. Transportation was by haywagon.



Back Row—Left to Right—Richard Albright, "Lobbis" Strohl, Galo Showalter, Horace Mellinger, Jack Kilhefner, Al. Mellinger. Middle Row—Percy Smith, Paul Stover, "Tut" Strohl, Ibach, "Nick" Hacker. Front Row—E. I. Romig, Ditzler, Ed. Getz, Mishler, "Mahney" Stetler, Sam Zell, Brubaker, Bill Sahm, "Kid" Mohn.

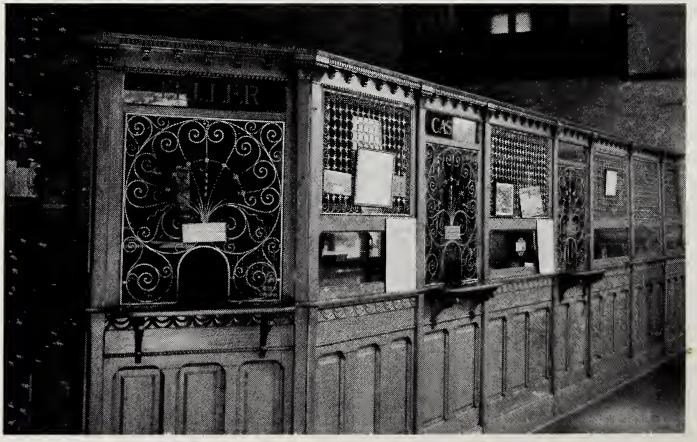
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Yesterday



This is how the Fulton Bank looked years and years ago when it first started serving the Akron community.



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AKRON OFFICE: N

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Exterior and interior views of the Fulton Bank as it looks today — offering Akron every modern banking service.



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tional **BANK**

h and Main Streets

The Akron Cornet Band was reorganized in 1913 with nineteen men, under the direction of E. Irwin Romig. Mr. Romig lives at 18 South Ninth Street, and has related much of this information to us. They traveled by steam locomotive and wagon. They played for events as far away as Fishing Creek on the Susquehanna River for the Fin and Feather Club.



Front Row—Left to Right—Ibach, William Roland, Roy Hackman, Roy Ibach, "Lobbis" Strohl, Lew McLain, Elmer Landis, William Daniels, Fred Bair. Second Row—Lewis Smith, Charles Smith. Third Row—Paul Weidman, Sam Leslie, Alvin Zwally, E. I. Romig. Fourth Row—Frank Conlin, Paul Stover, Elmer Hackman. Fifth Row—Charles Wolf, Charles Daniels.

The Akron String Band

A string band was also prominent at this time and consisted of ten men playing violin, viola, mandolin, banjo and guitar. They also had piano or organ accompaniment for indoor events.

Most of the local musicians also played in the Mountain Springs Rifles Band of Ephrata.



Back Row—Left to Right—Charles Enck, Elmer Hackman, Leon Lykens, Charles Wolf, Lyte Buch. Front Row—Roy Hackman, Clayton Garner, Harvey Sweigart, William Roland, Loyd H. Roland.

The Lamplighter Man



Oh, the lamplighter man
walks briskly along;
In his eyes a twinkle,
on his lips a song.
Up to the lamp post
he straightway goes.
Sometimes he must stand
on his very tippy toes
To open the gate
of the sturdy street light
And start there a flame
glowing and bright—
That will keep us safe
through the long dark night
Then on his way
he merrily goes.
Way far down the road
to the next lamp post.

Miss Alma Daniels.

Hokey-Pokeys

The early nineteen-hundreds.

August — A hot sultry Saturday afternoon.

Up the street rings the cry, "Hokey-pokeys, Hokey-pokeys. A penny a piece. Each a penny."

Children scramble to the street to meet him; each child clutching an Indian-head penny in a hot little hand.

Here comes the tall thin hokey-pokey man, pushing his little barrow before him. He stops. He removes the lid from a large container. From it he takes paper-wrapped squares of the most luscious, the most delicious ice cream anyone ever tasted.

How cooling, how refreshing, how flavorful is the hokey-pokey as it melts on the tongue and trickles down the throat! Pleasure supreme!

What! You never tasted a hokey-pokey?

Man, you haven't lived!

Miss Alma Daniels.





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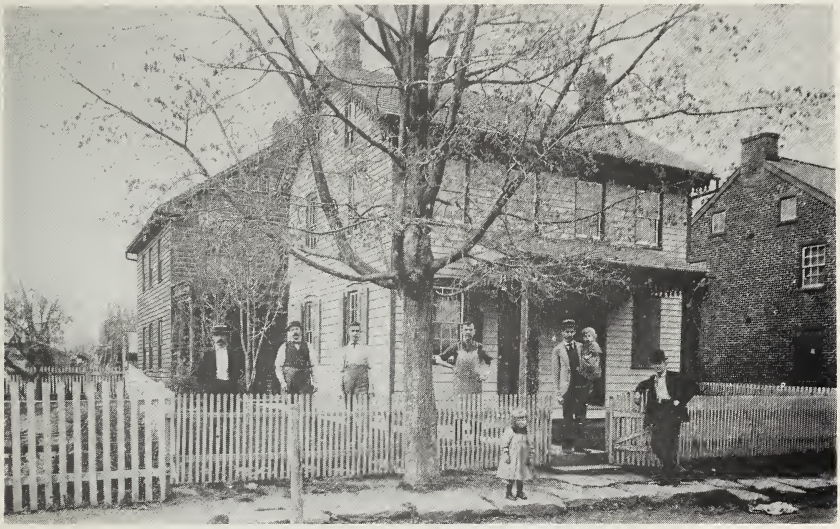
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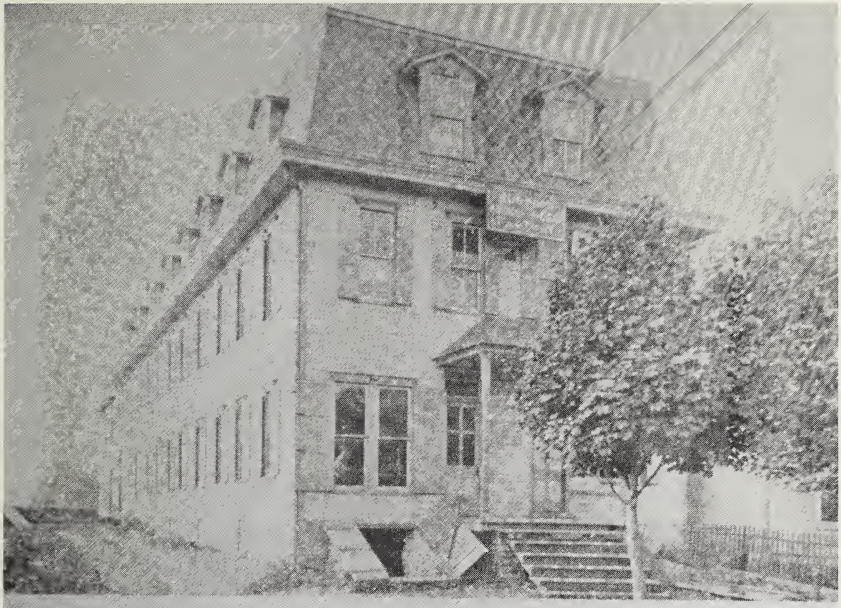


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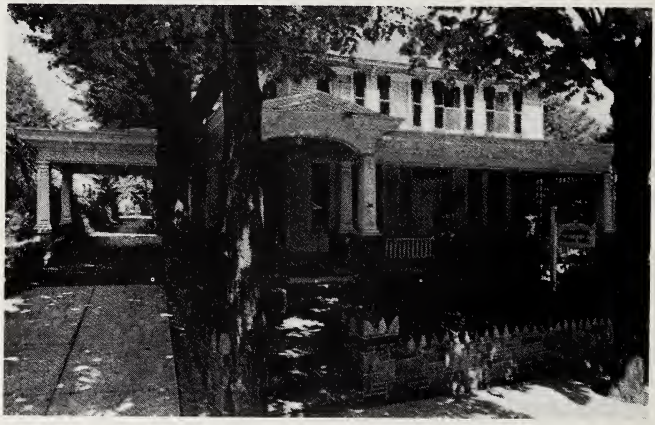
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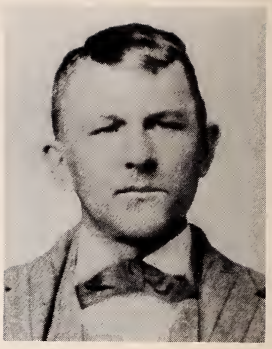
Akron, Pa.



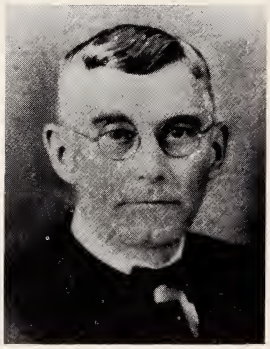
S. P. Hess
1856 - 1932

Founders of

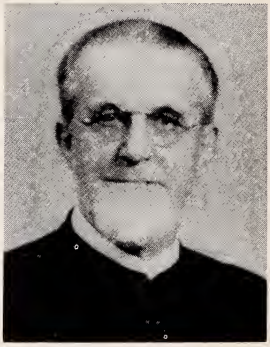
Miller, Hess & Company



P. B. Miller
1861 - 1925



W. E. Brubaker
1878 - 1961



S. N. Wolf
1862 - 1942



A. N. Wolf
1868 - 1939

Congratulations, Akron, on your 75th Anniversary! We are happy to have been a part of this fine community for 69 years!

In 1901 a new partnership was formed to start the manufacture of shoes. Frank J. Conlin, from New Jersey furnished the shoemaking skills. Capital and facilities were provided by a group of local area residents, Simon Hess, Al Wolf, Sam Wolf, Pete Miller and Wayne Brubaker. Production started in the upstairs of the large frame warehouse across from the Akron passenger depot.

In 1911 the Company was incorporated, and the two story brick building at the southeast corner of 7th and Main Streets where the Company was now producing shoes was purchased. This building had been built by the Akron Land Improvement Company which, a few years earlier, had organized, raised local funds, and had the building constructed so as to have employment for Akron residents within easy walking distance of the center of town and trolley line.

During the early years, S. N. Wolf, who traveled upstate New York to sell hand rolled cigars, took shoe samples with him and combined the sale of cigars and shoes. Prior to shoemaking, the manufacture of cigars furnished Akron its principal employment opportunity.

In 1913 the first wing was added to the original plant, and a branch fitting room in Ephrata was closed down. Additional units were added to the Akron plant in 1934



A. N. WOLF SHOE CO. — Denver, Pa.
Organized in 1922



MILLER, HESS & *Company, Inc.*

Headquarters and Central Office
Akron, Pa.

Founded in 1901



HUBLER SHOE CO. — Auburn, Pa.
Acquired in 1944



BACHMAN SHOE CO. — Middletown, Pa.
Acquired in 1947



HIGHLAND SHOE CO. — Akron, Pa.
Organized in 1924

and in 1937. The most rapid growth of the Company took place in the thirties when the popular priced teen-age girls' footwear made in Akron was in good demand.

The first major expansion move was the organization of the A. N. Wolf Shoe Company in Denver in 1922, and the Highland Shoe Company wholesale division in Akron in 1924. Active in ownership and management during this period were C. W. Hess, O. O. Miller, M. H. Zimmerman, John Reitz, Wayne Brubaker, Ray Bender and Walter Bender. During the mid-forties, two more manufacturing plants were acquired, Hubler Shoe Company, Auburn, Pennsylvania, in 1944 and Bachman Shoe Company, Middletown, Pennsylvania, in 1947.

Total employment at all Divisions now averages around 750, with production totaling from 11,000 to 12,000 pairs per day. The present officers of the Company are: A. P. Hallman, President; O. O. Miller, Vice-President; H. W. Mason, Vice-President, Manufacturing; D. V. Yoder, Vice-President, Marketing and Sales; R. L. Ebersole, Treasurer; and C. R. Althouse, Secretary. Clarence Hufford is the Plant Superintendent in Akron, and Robert Benner is Manager of Highland.

We join the many local organizations and neighbors in the hope that Akron will continue to be the nice, friendly, productive and good living community that it has been these many years.



First Row—Left to Right—Harry Miller, Clarence Zwally, Harry Badorf, Amos Stauffer, Stoner, Dietrich, Zwally, Frank Conlin. Second Row—Howard Smith, Howard Peck, Edwin Fritz, Arthur Adams, Levi Miller, Wayne Bender, Charles Hicks, Alsbach, Aaron Adams, Charles Enck, Paul Weidman, Haldeman, Fritz, Brubaker, Burkey, Burkey, John Conlin. Third Row—David Snader, Ralph Harlinger, John Harlinger, Keeler, Alfred Bender, Seiverling, Stella Hartranft, Minnie Burkholder, Stella Grube, Vera Stephan, Amy Ramsey, Ella Grove, Lottie Killian, Mary Ruth, Lizzie Mohler, Alice Miley, Elsie Stephan, Lottie Leed, Edna Eichelberger. Fourth Row— Stauffer, Daniels, Smith, Strohl, Kathryn Sharley, Eva Buch, Carrie Snader, Mary Bender, Cora Ramsey, Minnie Leib, Almeda Hartranft, Sesie Grove, Minnie Buchen, Eva Cooper. Fifth Row—Jacob Black, Clarence Hess, Horace Mellinger, Bender.



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Gerhart Caffroth in 1753 received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 160 acres on the banks of the Cocalico, and here his family farmed until 1806. Samuel Wolf bought 113 acres in 1842, and in 1895 this was owned by his grandson, Elias Wolf, and was bought by his grandson, A. N. Wolf (pictured) in 1920.

Our first 5-family town house is on the site of the stone and frame barn. Here Walter Eitnier raised tobacco, potatoes, and fed steers and hogs for Mr. Wolf for 35 years. A. N. Wolf spent summer vacations in the spring-house. Beside the spring-house was a creamery, where neighboring farmers brought milk to be made into butter. 500 pounds a day were shipped to Philadelphia by train.

The old swimming hole at the bend of the Cocalico now borders the Westview Golf Course. Refrigerators have replaced the cave in the spring-house. Today Heritage Village, a new concept for family living, is being built around the original stone farmhouse, keeping the best of the old, while building for the new.



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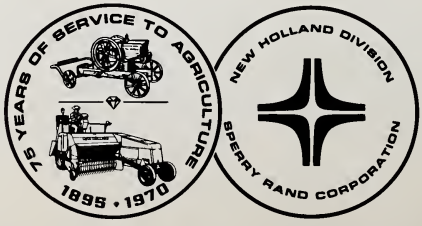
Rear 718 Broad Street Phone 859-1881 Akron, Pa.

HAPPY 75th, AKRON...

from a company celebrating its Diamond Anniversary, too. Reaching 75 years of age is an accomplishment to be proud of, whether you're a community or a business organization. It's also boon time for looking toward the next 75 years and laying plans for progress.

As we're doing at New Holland, we're sure the citizenry of Akron Borough—which includes many New Holland employees—has already made plans for their Borough's future. Plans that are sure to make the future even more progressive than the past.

From a company observing its 75th Birthday, we extend our heartiest congratulations.





West Main Street, Akron, Pa.



South Ninth Street — Looking North

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MR. AND MRS. GEORGE D. WOLF,
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} *Partners*
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Bruce R. Snader, *Owner*
1970

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Mr. and Mrs. C. Daniel Biemesderfer
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Miss Lisa D. Biemesderfer
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Mr. and Mrs. Bruce D. Snader
Mr. and Mrs. Nevin Snader
Dr. and Mrs. Frank Steele
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Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert L. Sweigart
Mr. and Mrs. J. Carl Weidman
Miss Elva Weller
Miss Gussie Weller
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Youse
Mr. and Mrs. Milo Zimmerman

....*Memo*....



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